

**STATE OF ILLINOIS**

**ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION**

AMEREN TRANSMISSION COMPANY OF ILLINOIS )

Petition for a Certificate of Public Convenience and )

Necessity, pursuant to Section 8-406.1 of the Illinois )

Public Utilities Act, and an Order pursuant to Section 8- )

503 of the Public Utilities Act, to Construct, Operate and )

Maintain a New High Voltage Electric Service Line and )

Related Facilities in the Counties of Adams, Brown, )

Cass, Champaign, Christian, Clark, Coles, Edgar, Fulton, )

Macon, Montgomery, Morgan, Moultrie, Pike, )

Sangamon, Schuyler, Scott and Shelby, Illinois. )

Docket No. 12-0598

**TESTIMONY OF LAURA TE GROTENHUIS ON BEHALF OF STOP THE POWER  
LINES COALITION**

Direct Testimony of Laura Te Grotenhuis

On Behalf of

Stop the Power Lines Coalition

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3 **I. INTRODUCTION**

4 Q: **What is your name?**

5 A: Laura Te Grotenhuis.

6 Q. **Where do you live Ms. Grotenhuis?**

7 A. 14435 North State Highway 1, Marshall, Illinois 62441

8 **II. PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY**

9 Q. **What is the purpose of your testimony?**

10 A. I have intervened in this proceeding both as a member of the Stop the power Lines Coalition  
11 (“Coalition”) and in my individual capacity. The purpose of my testimony is to support the goals of the  
12 Coalition which are to oppose the construction of the proposed ATXI 345 kV transmission line or, in the  
13 alternative, to ensure that the proposed 345 kV is not constructed on ATXI’s Primary Route in Clark  
14 County but is rather constructed on a route that is more logical and will not have the same degree of  
15 negative impacts that the ATXI’s Primary Route has. I intervened on my own behalf because I wanted to  
16 propose an alternative route that was designed to move the ATXI Primary Route 150 feet south to avoid  
17 property that I own which is tiled and terraced. The Coalition has no collective interest in the

18 alternative route that I proposed, which essentially is a minor jog in the ATXI Primary Route to avoid my  
19 tiled and terraced field.

20 **III. OPPOSITION TO PRIMARY ROUTE**

21 Q. **Are you opposed to ATXI's Primary Route through Clark County?**

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. **Why?**

24 A. I think the alignment of the proposed ATXI 345 kV line is very illogical. It appears to me that the  
25 meandering Primary Route in Clark County would cost about \$4.3 million more and be approximately 4  
26 miles longer the ATXI's Alternate Route from the Kansas substation to the Indiana line. It also appears  
27 to me that the longer Primary Route will require the taking of approximately additional 72 acres of  
28 private property. Moreover, I believe it will have a devastating impact on my life and that of my  
29 successors.

30 **IV. EFFECT ON PROPERTY**

31 Q. **Please describe the effect that construction of ATXI's proposed 345 kV transmission line on  
32 ATXI's Primary Route in Clark County would have on you and your property**

33 A. I own 14 separate parcels of property of which ATXI proposed to take easements to contract  
34 and operate its 345 kV transmission line. They are all on ATXI's Primary Route in Clark County. The  
35 parcel numbers for my properties are as follows:

- 36 1. 13-09-27-00-100-001  
37 2. 13-09-28-00-100-001  
38 3. 13-09-26-00-200-001

39           4.       13-09-23-00-400-001  
40           5.       13-09-24-00-300-004  
41           6.       08-08-26-00-400-005  
42           7.       08-08-25-00-300-002  
43           8.       08-08-36-00-100-001  
44           9.       08-08-36-00-100-002  
45           10.      08-08-25-00-400-003  
46           11.      08-08-36-00-200-003  
47           12.      13-09-30-00-300-003  
48           13.      13-09-30-00-300-000  
49           14.      13-09-31-00-100-001

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51   My father, S.W. Grotenhuis, is the co-owner of parcels 08-08-25-00-400-03, 08-08-36-00-100-002, 08-  
52   08-25-00-400-003, and 13-09-30-00-300-003. The estate of my mother, Bernice Grotenhuis, is the co-  
53   owner of parcel 08-08-35-00-100-001. Laura G. Gard, as the trust for the Laura G. Gard Revocable Living  
54   Trust, is the owner and parcels 08-08-36-00-200-003, 13-09-25-00-400-004, 13-09-24-00-300-004, 13-  
55   09-26-00-200-001 and 13-09-20-00-200-002. Laura G. Gard was my married name. I changed my name  
56   to Laura M. Te Grotenhuis when I divorced my ex husband. I also have tenants on six of the parcels.  
57   ATXI's primary Route in Clark County would cross all 14 parcels on approximately 3 miles of the  
58   transmission line and would take an estimated 38 acres of my property.  
59   I have drawn the rough locations of my property on the maps attached to my testimony as STPL Ex. 2.1.  
60   The maps on which I identified my rough property lines are copies of the ATXI Illinois Rivers Project  
61   maps that I printed from the ATXI Illinois Rivers Project website that show the proposed Primary Route  
62   in Clark County.

63   Q.       **Are there any special uses of your property that are of particular concern?**

64   A.       Yes. Parcel No. 08-08-25-00-400-003 has had extensive tiling and terracing done to control soil  
65   erosion at a cost of approximately \$150,000. There are 10 tiled terraces that are all walled off and  
66   terraced. The walls separating the terraces generally are four to six feet tall, except near the roadway,  
67   and the entire system has been designed to effectively constrict and control the water flow through the

property. I have attached an aerial photo of the tiled and terraced field as STPL Ex. 2.2. I am concerned that taking 75 feet of the south end of that property for construction of a transmission line will destroy the expensive and extensive soil erosion measures that I have implemented on that parcel. Among others, it would require that the entrance way from the road be relocated, and the ends of all the terraces would have to be redesigned.

I also have Conservation Practices (CP) 33 in effect on that same parcel. CP33 is a conservation involving construction or conservation of held borders for quail habitat sponsored by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), a part of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

I also have CP33 and C21 programs on another parcel. CP21 involves the construction or conservation of filter strips on land bordering a creek or other waterway to assist with water quality. CP21 is a program sponsored by the FSA, as part of the USDA.

The ATXI Primary Route would also cross 12 fences on my property. I currently breed and raise rodeo stock, beef cattle, world champion quarter horses, appaloosa horses, grand and permanent champion goats, and champion rabbits. I have prior experience with Ameren work crews on my property who have demonstrated no respect for my fences, and as a result fences were broken and livestock escaped onto the highway.

I also rely upon metallic structures for farming and animal husbandry purposes. I have constructed a series of metal grain bins and a new metal grain leg to deliver the grain from the bins at a cost of approximately \$500,000. As best I can tell, the grain leg would be approximately 400 feet from the center line of ATXI's transmission line. If that grain leg and bins are the subject of stray voltage or current due to the electric and magnetic fields created by the 345 kV line, their value to me is destroyed.

Similarly, I use automatic waterers for some of my animals. I just completed construction of metal automatic waterers on two parcels in the path of the ATXI Primary Route. Those automatic waterers appear to be 250 and 300 feet, respectively, from the center line of the Primary Route for the proposed

345 kV line. If those feeders are subject to stray voltage, it likely will have a detrimental impact on my animals' health because they will be reluctant to drink from waterers that shock them.

#### **V. ALTERNATIVE ROUTES**

**Q. What route do you support for ATXI's proposed 345 kV transmission line?**

A. Let me say first that I do not support any routes for the proposed 345 kV line because I do not think it is necessary. As I understand it, the vast majority of the electricity that would be transported through the line would be transported for use elsewhere. Furthermore, from everything I have read in the newspapers and have seen in the media, demand for electricity seems to be flat in this area, and the parent company, Ameren, and its subsidiaries appear to be losing money. Ameren sold its coal plants because they were not profitable, Ameren applied for and received an exemption to defer implementation of pollution control measures because it lacked financial resources to pay for them now, and all of the reports that I have read on Ameren's financial performance are negative. I do not understand the need for the proposed 345 kV transmission line.

**Q. Assuming that the Illinois Commerce Commission concludes that there is a legitimate purpose for this line, what route do you support?**

A. My first choice would be the second alternative routes proposed by the Coalition. That route is shorter and more direct than the Primary Route proposed by ATXI, and would avoid the devastating impact that I believe construction of the line on the Primary Route could have on me and my successors. If the Coalition's second alternative route is not selected, then my next preference would be ATXI's Alternative Route as it has the same advantages over the primary Route that the Coalition's alternative routes do. And, while I hope this never becomes necessary, should ATXI's Primary Route be selected, then at a minimum my alternative route should be selected to avoid unnecessary damage to my tiled and terraced field.

**Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

116     A.       Yes, it does.